A

PETITION

OF

The Major, Aldermen, and Common Councell of the City of LONDON,

To His Maieſtie.

Together with His Majeſties gracious *Anſwer* thereunto.

Anno Domini. 1641.

A

PETITION

OF

The Mayor, Aldermen, and Common
Council of the City of LONDON,

TO His Majesty.

Together with His Majesties gracious
Answer thereunto.

TO THE KINGS MOST EXCELLENT MAIESTIE.

The humble Petition of the *Major*, Aldermen, and Com' mon-Councell, of the City of LONDON,

MAy it pleaſe Your moſt excellent Majeſtie; the often expreſſions of your moſt gracious acceptance of the manifeſtation of the Petitioners duty and loyalty, and the frequent declarations of your Majeſties great care of the good and welfare of this City, and of the true Proteſtant Religion, and of the protecting and preſerving the Perſons and Privileges of your great Councell aſſembled in the Court of Parliament: each encouraged the Petitioners to repreſent the great Dangers, Feares, and Diſtractions wherein the City now is, by reaſon of the prevailing progreſſe of the bloody Rebells in *Ireland*, fomented, and acted by the Papiſts and their adherents, and want of Aid to ſuppreſſe them, and the ſeverall intimations they have had both Forraign and at Home, of the driving on of their Deſignes, tending to the utter ruin of the Proteſtant Religion, and of the Lives & Liberties of your Majeſties loyall Subjects, the putting out of Perſons of Honour and truſt from being Conſtable and Lievtenant of the Tower, eſpecially in theſe times, and the preparations there lately made, *the* fortifying of Whitehall with men and Munition *in* an unuſuall manner, Some of which men with provoking language and violence, abuſed divers Citizens paſſing by, and the drawing divers ſwords, and therwith wounding ſundry other Citizens in Weſtminſter-Hall, that were unarmed: the

late endeavours used to the Inner of Court, the calling in divers Canoniers, and other assistance into the Tower, the late discovery of divers fire-works in the hands of a Papist, and the misunderstanding betwixt Your Majestie and Parliament, by reason of misinformation, as they humbly conceive.

Besides all which, the Petitioners feares are exceedingly encreased by your Majesties late going into the House of Commons attended with a great multitude of armed men besides your ordinary Guard, for the apprehending of divers members of that House, to the endangering of Your Sacred Person, and of the Persons and Priviledges of that Honourable Assembly.

The effects of all which Feares tend, not only to the overthrow of the whole Trade of this City and Kingdome, which the Petitioners already feel in a deepe measure; but also threatens the utter ruine of the Protestant Religion, and the lives and Liberties of all Your Loyall Subjects.

The Petitioners therefore most Humbly pray Your Sacred Majestie, That by the advice of Your great Councell in Parliament, the Protestants in *Ireland* may be speedily relieved, The Tower put into the hands of Persons of trust: That by removall of doubtfull and unknowne Persons from about White-Hall and Westminster, a knowne and approved Guard may be appointed for the safety of Your Majestie and Parliament, and that the Lord *Mandevill* and the five Members of the House of Commons, lately accused, may not be restreined of libertie, or proceeded against, otherwise then according to the priviledges of Parliament.

And the Petitioners (as in all duty bound) shall pray for Your Majesties most long and happy Reign, &c.

HIS

HIS MAIESTIES ANSWER

To the Petition of the Major, Aldermen, and Common Councell of the City of LONDON.

HIS *Majestie* having fully considered the matter of this Petition, Is graciously pleased to declare, that being unalterably resolved to make good all His expressions and declarations of His care of this City, Of the true Protestant Religion, and of the Priviledges of Parliament; His *Majestie* takes in good part, the intimation given by the Petitioners of the feares and distractions wherein the City now seemes to be. And though He conceives He did on Wednesday at Guild Hall satisfie most of those particulars, is pleased to adde this further Answer.

1 That for the sad businesse of *Ireland*, His *Majestie* cannot possibly expresse a greater sence then Hee hath done, there being nothing left on His *Majesties* part unoffered or undone. And He hoped by the speedy advice and assistance of His Parliament, that great and necessary Work would be put in a just forwardnesse, to which His *Majestie* will contribute all his power: And how zealous He is and hath beene therein, will appeare in a Declaration speedily to be set forth by His *Majestie*.

2 For the Tower: His *Majestie* wonders, that having

ving removed a Servant of good Truſt and Reputation, from that Charge, onely to ſatisfie the feares of the City, and put in another of unqueſtionable Reputation, and knowne ability, the Petitioners ſhould ſtill entertain thoſe feares; and whatever preparation of ſtrength is there made, is with as great an Eye of ſafety and advantage to the City, as to his *Majeſties* own Perſon, and ſhall bee equally imployed to both.

3 For the fortifying of White-Hall with *Men* and *Munition* in an unuſuall way: His *Majeſty* doubts not, but the Petitioners have obſerved the ſtrange provocation He hath received to entertaine that Guard: That by the diſorderly and tumultuous conflux of people at Weſtminſter and White-Hall, his *Majeſties* great Councell was not only diſquieted, but his owne Royall Perſon in danger, moſt ſeditious language being uttered even under his own windowes, whileſt the examination and puniſhing ſuch Tumults by the courſe of Law were interrupted and ſtopped. And if any Citizens were wounded or ill intreated, his *Majeſty* is confidently aſſured, that it hapned by their owne evill and corrupt demeanours.

4 His *Majeſtie* knowes no other endeavours to the Innes of Court, then a gracious Intimation, That he received the tender of their loyall and dutifull Affections with very good Approbation and Acceptance, and an incouragement given them to continue the ſame upon all occaſions. Neither doth His *Majeſty* know, what diſcovery hath beene lately made of fire-workes in the hands of any Papiſt.

5 For His going to the Houſe of Commons (when His attendants were no otherwiſe armed then as Gentlemen with Swords) His *Majeſty* is verily perſwaded, That if the Petitioners knew the clear grounds upon which thoſe perſons ſtand accuſed of high Treaſon, and what will be proved

ved againſt them(which in due time they ſhall be acquainted with) and conſidered the gentle way his *Majeſtie* tooke for their apprehenſion (which Hee preferd before any courſe of violence, though that way had beene very juſtifiable; for His *Majeſtie* is very well aſſured that it is notoriouſly knowne, That no priviledge of Parliament can extend to Treaſon, Felony, or breach of the Peace) the Petitioners would believe his *Majeſties* going thither was an Act of grace and favour to that Houſe, and the moſt peaceable way of having that neceſſary ſervice for the apprehenſion of thoſe perſons performed; ſpecially, if ſuch Orders have beene made (which his *Majeſtie* is not willing to believe) for the reſiſtance of all lawfull Authority, as are diſcourſed of.

6 And for the proceedings againſt thoſe perſons mentioned in the Petition; his *Majeſtie* ever intended the ſame ſhould be with all juſtice and favour according to the Lawes and Statutes of the Realme; to the which all innocent men would cheerefully ſubmit.

And this extraordinary way of ſatisfying a Petition of ſo unuſuall a nature, his *Majeſtie* is confidently perſwaded, will be thought the greateſt inſtance can be given of his *Majeſties* clear intention to his Subjects, and of the ſingular eſtimation He hath of the good affections of this City, which He believes in gratitude will never be wanting to His juſt Commands and Service.

FINIS.